

Elk Point REVIEW

Bringing You the News since 1984

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Vol. 33 No. 50 • \$1 (GST incl.)

Leadership
Changes for Lakeland
DMO

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Weighs in

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**Families skate
with Santa
...Page 12**



Vicki Brooker photo

Happy hunters display top trophy racks

A long lineup of impressive antlers stretched out into Elk Point Curling Club's ice surface on Saturday for the Elk Point Oilmen's Association's Big Bucks contest. Left to right are youth winner Jasper Nelson, whitetail winner Terry Mistol, top typical scoring mule deer winner Leo Hurtubise, with Orin Ockerman and his top net score mule deer in the background, while Sydnee Crawford shows off the top ladies' whitetail for winner Kathy Kozina. Story, Page 7.

Elk Point farm family honoured at Farmfair

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

For the past 44 years, farm families from northern and central Alberta communities have been recognized as the recipients of the ATB Agriculture Farm Family Award. The Northern and Central Agricultural Service Boards select outstanding families who best represent values of the family farm within their rural community. The award honours both their farming business practices and community involvement. Winners receive a commemorative gate sign and are honoured at the ATB Agriculture Farm Family Awards Gala.

An Elk Point family whose roots go back to the community's earliest days was one of the 2013 recipients of the prestigious award.

Three generations of Capjacks from Sidehill Springs Farms were proud to accept the honour.

Mike Capjack, originally from Czechoslovakia, filed on his homestead in the Northern Valley district in 1909, and built a one-room log house on the densely forested land for his wife, Ilana, and their children, Joe, Mary and Ann. Six more children were added to the family as they gradually cleared the land and built a larger, two-storey log house.

Mike Capjack died in 1921 after having his leg amputated, leaving his wife with nine children. The oldest two, Joe, age 15, and Mary, 13, helped their mother to put in and take off the crop, with the others pitching in as they became old enough to help.

(Continued on Page 2)



The Capjack family proudly displays their Farm Family Award. Front, left to right: Jadey, Orest and Connie, Cash; back, left to right: Blair, Andrea, Shannon, Sandi and James.

Les Dunford photo

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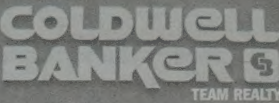
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Taking part in the presentation ceremony were, left to right, Richard Andersen, CEO, Northlands, Hon. Verlyn Olson, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, James and Sandi Capjack, Greg Malyk, Manager Agriculture, Northern Alberta, ATB Agriculture and County of St. Paul Coun. Glen Ockerman.

Photo courtesy Les Dunford, Town and Country

Farm family

(Continued from Front Page)

Joe later married Olga Juba from Angle Lake, and the two became the parents of Clarence, Orest, Arlene and Lawrence, with Orest eventually taking over the farm.

"Dad was the one who stayed behind and worked at the Canadian Salt plant," says his youngest son, James. "Mom and Dad moved back to the farm in 1972 when

Granddad passed away and they raised Blair, Shannon and I there until 1982," when they moved into Elk Point, but still continued to raise grain on the land.

In the early 1990s, James says, "Blair got back into cattle. I was going to college in Vermilion and Shannon was studying nursing. I came back after college and we started to expand the farm and got more cattle. From the mid 1990s on, we've operated the farm with the whole family's help. Shannon moved back to Elk Point and we all had jobs."

James moved back to the original farm in 1999 and built a new house. He and his wife Sandi married in 2003 and have two children, Jadey and Cash. In 2008, they purchased another farm, two miles away, from Craig and Bea Campbell. "We moved up there, and Mom and Dad moved back to the original farm." By that time, Blair, who has one daughter, Andrea, was busy building the cattle part of the operation on his farm in the Ferguson Flats area.

James is in charge of the field crop production, raising wheat, barley, canola and oats on owned, leased and rented land, with one part-time helper, Jason Porcina, while the Skolarchuk family from nearby Lindbergh assists Blair with the cattle operation when help is needed, James says. "Dad, who's now 71, and our neighbour, Orest Yopyk, who's 72, run the combines at harvest time. It's still a family run business."

"We all had off-farm jobs to help us build up the farm," says James, who retired earlier this year from his environmental work in the oilfield. Orest retired from the salt

plant after 45 years, Blair retired from the same facility this past August, and Connie recently retired after many years at the TD Bank in Elk Point. Shannon is a health unit nurse at Fishing Lake, but still finds time to help with calving and harvest, and Shannon, who works at F. G. Miller High School, also helps out wherever needed. "It's been working for one year (without the off-farm jobs), and I think we're there."

He acknowledges that farming is a risky business and "you have to watch your numbers. Other businesses have risks too, but the things we can't control can change so much. Feed prices can double, yields can plummet and Mother Nature will do as she will do. In farming, it's often 'next year's country'."

In addition to the hard work of the whole family, James attributes "a huge part" of their farm's success to "the support of good local people, and the great landlords who support us."

James feels the farm and the Elk Point community provide "a very good atmosphere to raise kids. I'm hoping there will be something there for the kids, so they have the choice to farm if they want to. That's what we've worked hard to get, what we're trying to build."

The family's focus on their farm doesn't leave time for much community involvement, but James has found time to encourage his children in the Elk Point Minor Hockey system, coaching the Micro Novice team this year as well as helping with the Atoms. He says he even enjoys working in the arena booth, and finds it's a good time to catch up with life in the community.



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UPCOMING AUCTIONS

Regular Livestock Sales Held every Tuesday at 10:00 am

Bred Cow/Heifer Sale - Thursday November 28 starting at 11:00 am. On offer a dispersal of 75 Charolais cross cows. Cows must be delivered before 2 pm Wednesday to allow for preg-testing. Cull cows and bulls also accepted for this sale.

Last Chance Bred Cow/Heifer Sale - Thursday December 12, 11:00 am

Last Cattle Sale of 2013 - December 17

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Your Christmas Invitation

Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School Christmas Program with Lunch to follow

Sunday, December 22, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
 Christmas Worship Service for the Whole Family

Tuesday, December 24, 2013
 at 7:00 p.m.
 Christmas Eve Service

Elk Point Baptist Church
 gateway to life

5705 49 Street, Elk Point
780-724-4194

International newsman to visit FGM

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

International affairs expert, author, columnist and broadcaster Gwynne Dyer will be in Elk Point this week for a presentation to F. G. Miller High School's Grade 11 and 12 students, entitled "The Middle East Explodes... Again?"

An invitation has been extended to other schools in the division to attend the session, slated for 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12, and this invitation has been extended to interested individuals in the community as well.

Dyer, who visited FGM with another international news presentation a few years ago, has authored documentary series on both television and radio,

with his seven-part television series, 'War,' airing in 45 countries in the mid 1980s. His radio documentaries include 'The Gorbachev Revolution' and 'Millennium'.

Dyer's newspaper columns appear regularly in more than 50 major newspapers across Canada as well as in numerous publications around the world.

He has several books to his credit as well, the most recent, 'Climate Change', dealing with the geopolitical implications of large-scale climate change.

This week's presentation covers the current unrest in a region Dyer is very familiar with, having covered the area as a journalist and scholar for more than 30 years.

Election brings leadership changes for Alberta's Lakeland

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The October municipal elections have resulted in a major turnover in the leadership of Alberta's Lakeland Destination Marketing Organization (DMO), with several new faces around the table at the Nov. 28 meeting in St. Paul.

Vote counts and decisions not to run for reelection left the DMO without a president, vice-president and secretary, with only the treasurer, Heinsburg Community Club representative Marjorie Scott, remaining from the original executive. County of St. Paul Coun. Dwight Dach was unable to attend the meeting, but left word with general manager Marianne Price that he would be willing to take over the president's chair. He was subsequently elected without opposition. Coun. Bruce Gray, who will represent the Town of Two Hills on the DMP board for a second term, has tentatively been named vice-president, while Charlene Rachynski from Bonnyville let her name stand for the position of secretary.

Other new faces around the table included Town of Elk Point Coun. Debra McQuinn, Town of St. Paul Coun. Ken Kwiatkowski and Village of Glendon Coun. Peter Doonanco, all successful at the polls on Oct. 21.

Price brought the new members up to speed on two important aspects of the DMO's finances, the recently introduced corporate membership program and the destination marketing fund. In addition to municipal memberships, with a 25-cent per capital levy, business, non-profit organization or individual memberships at \$55 per year and reciprocal member-

ships with chambers of commerce in the region, the DMO has now made corporate memberships available. The corporate memberships have the benefit for those members of advertising their company in both the annual tourist guide and in packages handed out at the many trade fairs the DMO attends, with the potential of attracting employees and new business. Canadian Natural Resources has purchased one of these memberships for 2014, and Price and her assistant hope to meet with the human resources departments of other companies to explain the advantages of membership to them.

The Destination Marketing Fund comes from a one to three per cent levy charged by hotels, which Price says is "an opportunity for hotels to collect money for use in marketing." At the same time, she said, it is another form of revenue for the DMO, which would serve as the implementation body for marketing.

The meeting's round table session showed progress across the region. Kwiatkowski said St. Paul has added 28 stalls to their campsite, which "helped Sommerville (pipeline employees), but they won't be here forever," with the result of more spaces for tourists in the future. St. Paul is also trying to get their weather more prominently displayed on television weather reports, he said. Price noted that

WestWorld magazine will feature St. Paul's UFO landing pad in an upcoming issue.

Doonanco represents Glendon's new council, and says their focus is on "having more activities and we're moving the Pyrogyfest to the September long weekend."

Glendon's trailer dumping station is being moved, and larger trailer campsites built, to help cope with the large influx of visitors that attend such events as the demolition derby. They also hope to change an existing bylaw to allow ATVs to travel from the Iron Horse Trail to their campground.

McQuinn told the group that the Town of Elk Point is looking for a new FCSS director and is also considering hiring a front office person who would work for both the FCSS and the chamber of commerce. The chamber's upcoming project is completing the outdoor-access washroom at the Visitor Information EcoCentre. Further development of walking trails and the possibility of an oilmen's show are on also on Elk Point's radar.

Lac La Biche County is putting together a social media campaign to promote upcoming community consultations regarding the visitor information centre they plan to build, representative Brian Enns said. The county also plans to launch a tourism information website in the future.

(Continued on Page 11)

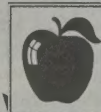
Elk Point & Dist. Ag. Society
Annual
General Meeting
Wednesday, December 18, 2013
7:00 p.m.
Horizon Room, A.G. Ross Arena

Capsule Comments



by Your Natural Choice Apple Drugs pharmacist, Seyi Oyebo

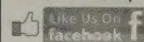
- There is increasing evidence that shows that brain changes leading to dementia occur decades before the actual symptoms appear. This means that early diagnosis of dementia is very important. There are many on-line tests available to test you for Alzheimers and dementia symptoms. These are not reliable. Your best resource is your doctor.
- Winter air travel can be painful. Airplane ear, is a full, sometimes painful feeling in the ear as the plane takes off or lands. It often happens in winter when people have colds. Using a nasal decongestant spray a half hour before take-off can help. Don't sleep during take-off and landing and try yawning to clear the ears or try pinching the nostrils and blow. It can help equalize the pressures in your head.
- The holidays seem to encourage more alcohol consumption. One good rule to follow at social events is to drink two non-alcoholic drinks to one alcoholic drink. The extra fluid might make you feel fuller and you may eat less as well.
- Pharmacists are often asked if they can have a glass of wine or a beer with their medication. There are some medications in which alcohol would be totally prohibited. We will ensure you know what cautions to observe when taking your medication. So you might be able to enjoy that glass of wine after all!
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Wednesday, December 18*	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Elk Point
Friday, December 20*	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	*Appt required for Dec. 13, 18 & 20. Call 780-724-3532 to book.

Please bring Alberta Health Care Card. Short sleeves recommended.

For more info, including local clinic details, visit www.albertahealthservices.ca or call Health Link Alberta at 1.866.408.5465 (LINK).

EDITORIAL

Looking good!

It was impressive to see how many homes in Elk Point and area were all lit up for the season by the time our Christmas Extravaganza rolled around. Even more are decked from rooftop to sidewalk now, and it makes our community a bright and cheerful place to spend the holiday season.

Along with the bright lights come the bright smiles of those we see taking part in seasonal events, and those who are doing good deeds for others, donating time, energy, groceries, gifts and good will to assist those who many not have much of a Christmas without a little help from their friends: our community.

Keep up the good work, everyone. The world loves a cheerful giver, and we seem to have lots of them.

Way Back When...

Projects on hold, completed, announced

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 10 IN...

1988

Town council voted to add their support to the County of St. Paul school board's appeal to the Department of Education's decision to put the Elk Point Elementary School addition on hold. Elk Point Skating Club hosted their annual Skate-a-Thon, where Doug Bassett skated for both the Lions Club and the Oilmen's Association, collecting the most pledges in the Clubs and Organizations section on behalf of the Lions.

1993

Elk Point Elks senior hockey team was leading the Sask-Alta Hockey League, with an impressive seven win - one loss record, after a week that included bad-to-back wins over the Paradise Valley Jets and one over the Dewberry Mustangs. Alberta Power had good news for the chamber of commerce, with no rate increases in sight, and efforts being made to reduce the rates further.

1998

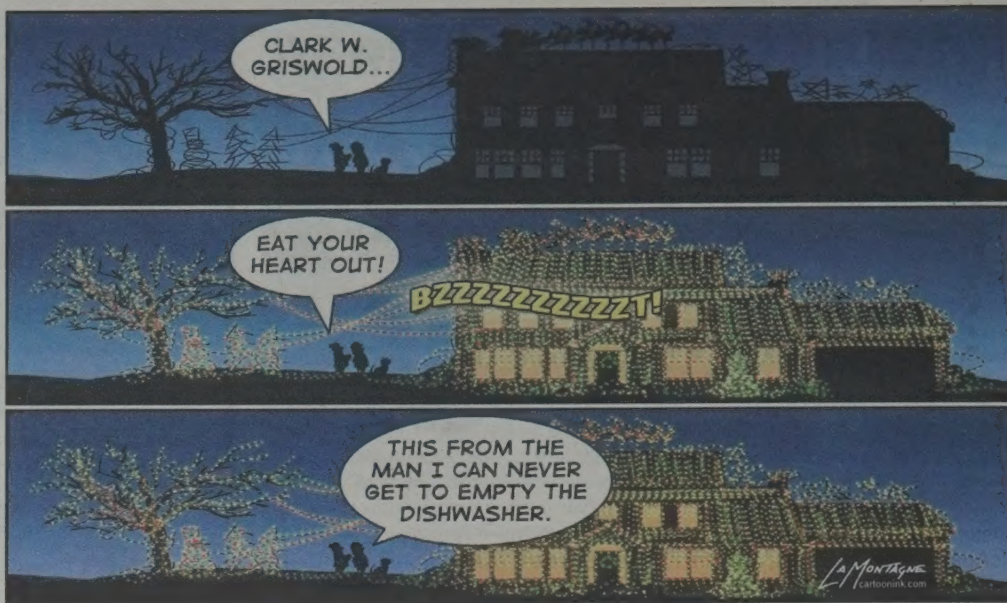
The Elk Point Review proudly accepted the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award, with the New Business of the Year award going to Frosty's Kitchen. Elk Point RCMP were urging everyone to have fun while snowmobiling, but to take care, with proper equipment, registration and insurance, and to follow the regulations imposed by the town and provincial governments.

2003

The end of a long, rough road was celebrated as County Coun. Sharil Baumgardner cut the ribbon to officially open the recently completed Moosehills Road upgrading project. The chamber of commerce was going to bat for local oilfield contractors after one of them lost all of his business with a large company that opted to have the work done by a company from outside the area.

2008

Five area churches combined congregations and choirs for the Interdenominational Cantata hosted by St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, which included a Nativity pageant, Ukrainian, Japanese, Czech and Filipino carols. Elk Point Oilmen's Association hosted their first Big Bucks contest, with Mark Ference, Jordan Mudryk and Jim Mistol tracking down the big winners.



GUEST COLUMN

Christmas beginnings

Most of us know the story of the first Christmas, where it happened and why we celebrate today. But have we ever wondered what happens today in that area of the world at Christmas time.

From The Reader's Digest "Book of Christmas", I learned some things about what happens in the Middle East. Christmas in the Middle East is a time of contrasts, of the mingling of East and West, of ancient and modern. Beirut, bustling capital of Lebanon, is filled with glitter and gaiety. The lunar cycle sometimes causes a Muslim holiday to fall during Christmas week. Then decorations are even more dazzling, stores even more crowded.

Though snow is a rarity, reissues of Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" are sold, along with "Silent Night" sung in Arabic. Holly, mistletoe and giant poinsettias appear in the flower shops, and Christmas trees are piled in vacant lots. The main streets of the modern city and even the bazaars of the old section are strung with colored lights and tinsel. Street vendors load pushcarts with Santa Claus balloons. Still, the celebration is not all commercial. University choirs perform Amahl and the Night Visitors, and schools present reverent pageants.

Just 150 air miles away is the "little town of Bethlehem," where the contrasts are even more striking. Despite the busloads of camera-carrying tourists that arrive each year for Christmas week, Bethlehem retains an Eastern, almost Biblical atmosphere. Mosques stand in tranquil harmony with Christian churches, and the sound of muezzins chanting their prayers mingles with the plainsong echoing from cathedrals.

Though jet planes roar past overhead, pack-laden donkeys still pick their way through the narrow, crowded streets; and veiled women dressed in robes such as Mary might have worn rub elbows with visitors in sundresses or slacks.

Outside the town are olive groves where trees plant-

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.



ed before the birth of Christ still flourish. And in the surrounding fields shepherds still watch their flocks by night - a timeless reminder of that first, wondrous Christmas Eve.

To further explore my research about Christmas celebration in Bethlehem today I asked the question about food. One answer was that in Bethlehem (remembering that today it is a mixed community of Christian and Muslim) one family who answered this question said that in Bethlehem, they traditionally have roast lamb on a bed of spiced (nutmeg and allspice) rice mixed with meat (and possibly chestnuts), salads, and yoghurt. For desert: Knafe - steamed dough that is then glazed in syrup and butter, baklava, (Ba-kla-va is a Near Eastern pastry made of many layers of paper-thin dough with a filling of ground nuts, baked and then drenched in a syrup of honey and sometimes rosewater.), and wheat pudding. This family celebrates on the eve of the 24th, and then they walk to the Church of the Nativity for mid-night mass. Christmas day is spent visiting family and friends, where they traditionally have biscuits, dessert wine and cardamom spiced coffee. Other Bethlehemite traditions include "passing of the pudding" in the first week of December (also known as Bourbara, the celebration of St. Barbara, which involves making a lot of wheat porridge mixed with candied fruit and giving it to those less fortunate). In researching further, I learned that St. Barbara is a much-loved saint, whose feast was celebrated universally on December 4. But her story was based on legend from the 3rd century A.D., which has presented many historical difficulties. Therefore the Church removed her feast from the General Roman Calendar. Simply put, she became a martyr when her bigoted father cut off her head because she wanted to be a Christian. In America, the town of Santa Barbara was named after her.

After researching how they celebrate Christmas in the original location, my thoughts now turn to how we celebrate where we live today. Many people because of their own traditions will celebrate their own way. As said by Fred Bauer: "Christmas is a time for understanding people and customs throughout the world, when for all-too-brief a season, the banner of peace is unfurled." So to everyone best wishes in all your Christmas celebration preparations during this month of December.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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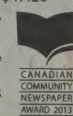
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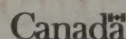
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Shown with the Stars Calf are, back row, left to right: Kevin Wirsta, Nicole Bristow, Kailey Wirsta, Ashley Bristow, Heidi Tymko, Roy Tymko, Mathew McAnally, Tulsen Wells, Dustin Pinder, Payden Wells; front row: Dallas Bristow, Carter Marcoux, Lexi Wirsta, Macey Marcoux, Levi Quist.

Elk Point 4-H Beef weighs in

By KAILEY WIRSTA
Club Reporter

We had our weigh in on the 25th of November at K-Cow Ranch. We have 14 members in our club. Our members are taking the steer and heifer projects. This year, we have 14 steers and 7 heifers. We weighed each project, read and recorded their CCIA tag numbers, Ivomeced and then tagged all the steers with a green 4-H tag.

We also took a photo of all of our members along with the STARS calf donated by Shamrock Valley Enterprises and Murry and Lisa Nielsen. Levi Quist has volunteered to feed him for the year and he will be auctioned off at the District Show and Sale held on June 2, 2014 in St. Paul. All of the proceeds will be donated to STARS.

We had a potluck lunch after weighing our calves, which was followed by a meeting and a feed workshop. We learned about what we should be feeding our steers and heifers.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas Party on December 15th where we are planning on

ice skating and building gingerbread houses.

Thanks you to everyone that purchased Mundare Sausage. We have extra if anyone is interested. Ivomec jugs & boxes are our next fund-

raiser, if anyone has any they would like to give to the members, please contact any one of our members and we would be happy to arrange pick up.



Kevin Wirsta showing how much Ivomec each calf requires.



Kevin Wirsta helping Nicole Bristow tag her calf.

Photos submitted

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OF THE YEAR

2013

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Novice No. 2 champs of the Lakeland

The Novice No. 2 team became the undisputed champions of the Lakeland, playing up in Bonnyville on the weekend in a tournament; winning all four of their games and taking the A side title. Mason Youngchief between the pipes was superb in his goaltending debut and looks like a contender for the starting job of team's goaltender! Starting on Friday night the Avalanche defeated Bonnyville No. 3 by a score of 9 to 2.

"Mic Jager" Fontaine and his sidekick little brother the "Kid" Kade with a hat trick each, Dean "the Machine" Ockerman with two, Sam "Spiderman" Rogal with a single, set up man Ethan Castle -Wasson with an assist. The second game Saturday against Cold Lake saw the Avalanche winning 6 to 2 "Mic Jager" and the "Kid" Kade with a hat trick each, Ethan CW with two helpers in this one. Then winning again 5 to 3 over St. Paul put the Avalanche into the A final against Bonnyville No.1, the Avalanche winning all the marbles the final score 6 to 4. "Spiderman" and "Mic" with a hat trick each, corner man Ceejay Quinney



and "the Machine" with the assists. Not everyone on this team is known for goal scoring, not only was the passing amazing this past weekend, but head coach James Capjack really stresses to his players to play a good defensive game and that is exactly what he gets from his top three guys on the blue line, Cash "CC" Capjack, "Bazooka Joe" Cardinal and Josef Theriault never get the glory of scoring but they are rock stars all the same!

doug BASSETT
Review Sports

The Novice No. 1 team played a pretty awesome game as well this past weekend at home against St. Paul, winning 12 to 3. Hat tricks for Luke "Skywalker" Poulin, "King Kong Konnor" Poitras, and Lenae Peebles, Nathaniel Cousins on the doorstep banging one home into the twine, and Brady Hymanyk with his first goal of the year. "Super Mario" Vanden Moroziuk behind the mask wasn't very busy but came up big when they tested him. And some really aggressive fore checking and back checking from the "Little Gaffer" Gavin Kadutski who was called up from the farm team to help out the short bench and wasn't one bit

out of place in this game.

It's bad enough when your squad has some injuries to battle through, but now the bantam team is battling the flu bug, and it hit their number one goalie "Hercules" Shane Hurtobise hard on Sunday. "Hercules" tried to play but pulled the plug after the first five minutes giving the peewee call up from the farm, Darrian "the Dominator" Rybchinsky a chance to show is stuff in the big league, the "Dominator" "doing his part, but the Blazers kept the pressure on for most of the game. The Avalanche had a tough start with their goalie not 100 per cent like usual, especially when they rely on him so much, but really played well in the second period, keeping the Blazers off the score sheet, and then fell apart again in the third, in part due to penalties that cost the team a number of the goals. Austin "Astro" Axley scoring the only two goals for the Avalanche, Austin "Ozzie" Stafford and the "Big O" Brody Odgaard with the assists.

Right after the bantam game on Sunday, the peewee game started against Lloydminster and then the lights went out in the whole town. This one will go again at a later date.

Over in Mallaig, the Micro Novice

played in a tournament there. "Bo Diddle" Fontaine with two hat tricks, one against the host Mallaig and one against Lac La Biche. "Little Gaffer" Gavin Kadutski with a hat trick in the second game against Lac La Biche, Brandon Haesch-Baker and Kale Hoeving (with two) scoring their first goals ever, and Cole Pierce with a single.

This one sounds like the Oilers on Saturday night against Calgary. A real barn burner over in Bonnyville on Sunday night, with the Atom Avalanche trailing by two, Jenna "Precious" Poitras was in the right spot at the right time scoring assisted by Evan "Bat Man" Ockerman and Jaden "Jet Stream" Van Maarion, then with only 10 seconds left in the game Charlie "Angel" Rogal scored the tying goal when he was set up by the "Bat Man".

And now for the K. A. Campbell quote of the week. "Two people fighting is not violence in hockey. It might be in tennis or bowling, but it's not in hockey." Last week's answer to "It's not who wins the fight that's important, it's being willing to fight. If you get challenged and renege, everyone wants to take a shot at you." - Barclay Plager.

Big bucks take the spotlight at competition



A good crowd was on hand to check out the fine array of antlers from this year's hunting season.

'Staches raise cash

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

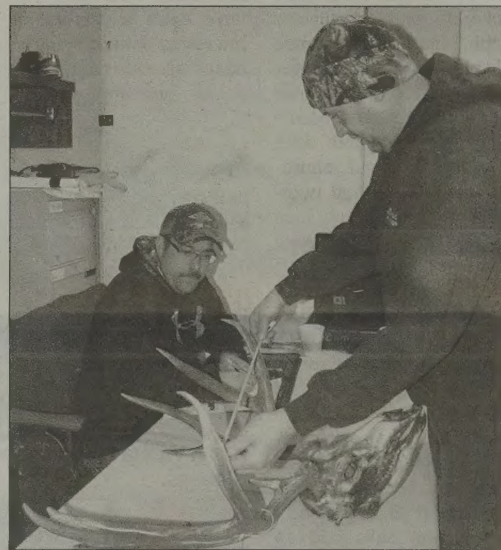
They weren't to the handlebar or Fu Manchu stages yet, but the mustache-growing prowess of two Elk Point Co-op men raised a total of \$2,277.13 for prostate cancer and men's health research this November.

"We think it went really well," said store manager Mark Gormley who along with assistant manager Don Shaw, invited shoppers to donate to the cause, with each donor eligible to vote for their

favourite 'stache. Their ballots then made the shoppers eligible for a prize draw, with a name to be drawn from the ballot box of the man with the best mustache and the other man purchasing a \$50 Co-op gift card as the prize.

"Don had the better 'stache," Gormley conceded, adding that Shaw decided to also purchase a gift card and make a draw from Gormley's ballot box as well. Roberta Schaap and Walt Czuroski were the lucky winners of the gift cards.

Due to Sunday evening's power outage, the Interfaith Christmas Cantata was unable to be held.



Yvon and Real Fontaine measure the racks.

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Oilmen's Association held their annual Big Bucks Contest at Elk Point Curling Club on Saturday, with a total of 34 racks brought in to be measured and tabulated by Real and Yvon Fontaine.

Real thanked the participants, noting that the event was almost cancelled this year, due to the unavailability of an appropriate venue, however Curtis Porcina volunteered the use of the curling club in the nick of time.

Entries were down from last year, but still a good showing..

This year, for the first time, hunters had two options available. They could enter ahead of time, thus qualifying for special prize draws, or at the event itself. The early bird draws went to Dave Mistol, who won a taxidermy gift certificate donated by Lone Star Trucking, in the adult division, and Kaiden Evans-Anderson, who won a shotgun donated by Chris Bannister in the youth division.

This year's gun draws were won by Bryant Schnurer, Ashton Tupman and Ivan Ainsworth.

When all the calculations were complete, Jasper Nelson won the Youth Whitetail championship prize from Prairie Tech with a measurement of 137.0/8, Kathy Kozina won the Ladies Whitetail prize from Xtreme Oilfield with a typical measurement of 144 5/8. and Terry Mistol, who also won the Ashmont contest earlier in the day, won the Whitetail award from Diablo with a net typical measurement of 174 4/8.

In the Mule Deer competition, it all came down to percentages of typical over net score, with another Ashmont competition winner, Orin Ockerman, moved down to second place when his net score of 198 7/8 was only 86.5 per cent typical, while Leon Hurtobise, with a net score of 176 5/8, was 93 per cent typical. His prize came from the Oilmen's Association.

High-speed Internet initiative sees \$1.2 million in local grants

By RYAN McCracken
Review Contributor

Representatives from the County of St. Paul and the M.D. of Bonnyville met with Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Verlyn Olson at St. Paul's provincial building on Friday to announce over \$1.2 million in grants for the Final Mile Rural Community Program.

Four communities in northern Alberta, the County of St. Paul, the M.D. of Bonnyville, Lac La Biche County and Fishing Lake Metis Settlement, will see over \$1.2 million in grants through the Final Mile program. Collectively, the project will see 28 new towers constructed, including one co-location site.

County of St. Paul Reeve Steve Upham spoke of the importance of the Final Mile program at Friday's announcement, which will see nine towers built within the County of St. Paul, nine within the M.D. of Bonnyville, eight in Lac La Biche and two in Fishing Lake.

"The (Final Mile) program an extremely important initiative that provides for the completion of a

comprehensive communication network, ensuring high-speed Internet access to all residents across this region," said Upham, adding that the infrastructure should be in place by March of 2014. "The continued growth of business development in the northeast or Lakeland area is unequaled anywhere else in the province. Uncompromised high-speed access is a non-negotiable requirement for ag producers, rural based businesses and service industries based in remote locations."

St. Paul county has received a grant of \$341,250, while the M.D. of Bonnyville received \$399,75, Lac La Biche was given \$274,080 and Fishing Lake received \$211,500.

Bonnyville-Cold Lake MLA Genia Leskiw also shared her belief that expanding high-speed Internet access is important in achieving rural development.

"Sustainable growth and rural development are priorities for our government, and we see technology and innovation at the heart of that development," said Leskiw. "Technology has made the

world a smaller place and expands opportunities for growth to a global stage. Today's announcement is a part of how our government is supporting our priorities in sustainable growth and rural development."

The Final Mile Rural Community Program is a partnership between Agriculture and Rural Development and Service Alberta. The program is investing over \$5 million in 23 projects that will see expanded high-speed Internet service across the province, according to a press release from the Government of Alberta.

Olson pointed out that the Final Mile program has a goal of providing high-speed Internet access to at least 98 per cent of Albertans, which it is currently aimed at achieving.

"No matter where you live in Alberta, there are certain things that you should be entitled to as an Albertan and one is this connectivity. It's absolutely crucial for the lifeblood of rural Alberta," said Olson. "Whether it's students doing their homework, a farmer checking the weather or global prices, or whether it's somebody who just

wants to keep track of their family members on the other side of the world, the Internet really is the tool. It's a piece of infrastructure that is really very important."

Minister of Service Alberta Manmeet Bhullar appeared at Friday's announcement via video-conference from Calgary to declare that the Final Mile goal of providing 98 per cent of Albertans with high-speed Internet access has been achieved.

(Continued on Page 11)

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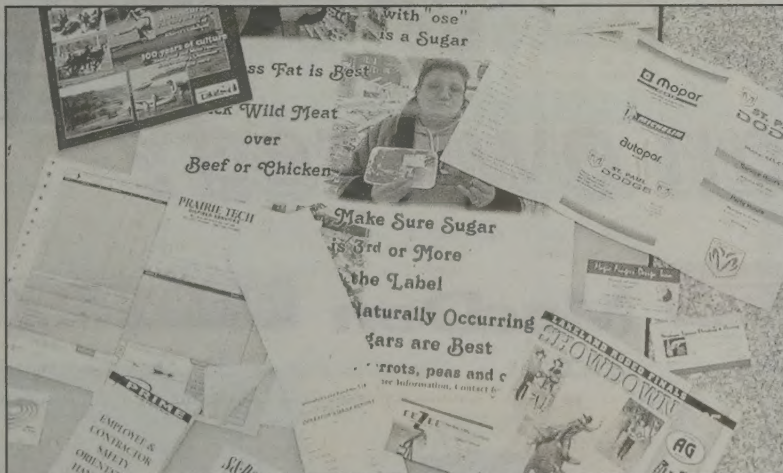
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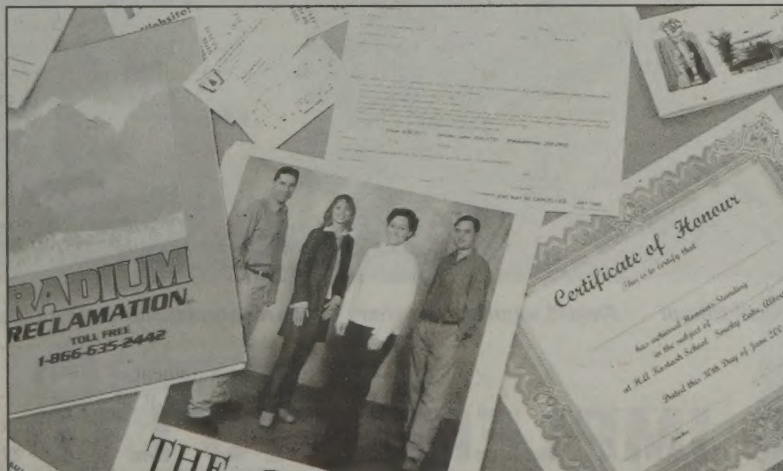
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Food drive a huge success at FGM, Co-op



The Wolf's annual food drive at F. G. Miller High School and Elk Point Co-op met with great success last Tuesday. The high school staff and students (above) gathered a total of 1,385 food items plus cash in just a week. The Wolf's Bobby May said the donations "will go a long way to help families who can't afford this kind of food for the holiday season."

At Elk Point Co-op (right), May, fellow Wolf staffer Chanel Leedah, Co-op manager Mark Gormley, Elk Point Fire Chief Ken Palamarek and B & R Eckels driver Andrew Harvey were busy loading carts with bags of groceries purchased by shoppers and donated to the cause. Santa stopped by for a visit and got in some practice for his Christmas Eve sleigh-loading marathon.



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Santa sculptors

Elk Point Municipal Library's after-school crafts group created a whole lineup of paper plate Santas last Thursday, complete with cotton-ball hair and paper-chain beards, as they get ready to deck the halls for Christmas.

King's Kids helping out

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

By now, you've probably all seen the Trees of Warmth in Elk Point's three financial institutions, which instead of ornaments, are decked with gloves, mitts, hats and toques, with cozy scarves as their garlands. All those warm decorations will be boxed up by the Christian Community Church's King's Kids and hauled off to an inner-city mission in Edmonton right after Christmas.

The Kids' other gifts this season are going much further afield, to Rwanda. A special offering is being taken during December to purchase one or more goats for a village in that far-off land, and Ruth Vogel points out that because they know a family in that area, the funds will go straight to them, with no administration fees, and they will purchase and deliver the goats to the village. Each goat costs \$50, and they hope to collect enough for two goats.



Ho! Ho! Ho! 15 sleeps to go!

Announcements

IN MEMORIAM BERG, Arvid

In loving memory of Arvid Berg, who passed away December 14, 2001.

Lovingly remembered by sister Vera Thir, sister-in-law Norma & numerous nieces and nephews.

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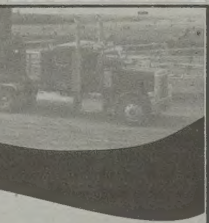
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DMO

(Continued from Page 3)

St. Paul chamber of commerce manager Mattisson Hannotte is also looking into the future and is investigating the possibility of holding an agricultural show in 2015.

Marjorie and Roy Scott said Heinsburg is "in panic mode" because their community is part of the route for next year's Wild Pink Yonder cancer fundraiser, a 23-day horseback and wagon trek that will follow the Iron Horse Trail to Bonnyville and Radway. A special feature of the trek is a contest among the communities en route to be "the pinkest town in the west," and Heinsburg is wondering what they should do next August to welcome the trek visitors. Heinsburg also hosts the wrap-up event of the 2nd Chance Trail Ride for organ donors in May.

Price reported that she has booked "about half" of the 15 or 16 trade shows the DMO attends during the year, and longtime member Fred Alexandruk of Pinehurst Wilderness Cabins said he is prepared to take the information and displays to the Saskatoon Sports and Leisure Show, which is the first event on that calendar for 2014, and will transport and set up the display at the Edmonton show, which follows soon afterward.

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High speed Internet

(Cont. from Page 7)

"I'm so proud to announce the successful completion of our target. We have in fact surpassed it... we are able to announce that 98.3 per cent of Albertans will now have access to high-speed Internet," said Bhullar. "This isn't about just technology. It's about how technology affects people's lives; how it makes their lives better and allows them to connect with people, allows them to learn, allows them to access government services."

Bhullar added that he feels access to high-speed Internet is crucial to family life in Alberta.

"Reliable high-speed internet is essential to families. Whether you're accessing government services, or if you want to jump on Netflix or connect with your families on Facebook, these are essential ways

for people to connect," he said. "To think that there were some folks in remote areas that didn't have access to that technology, and now through a lot of our efforts, we've been able to help make that happen."

Olson went on to point out the potential impact expanded high-speed Internet access could have on small business in rural Alberta.

"I think it's going to have a huge potential impact for small business. That's one of the things that we're pushing. When we talk about building Alberta, we talk about access to markets as well as living within our means and supporting families and communities," said Olson. "When you talk about access to markets, we tend to think that foreign markets are only reached by big companies in big cities... I think that it's really important for

rural development in Alberta. People need to get their head around the idea that you don't have to be in a big city to, for example, sell honey to Japan."

Of the nine towers to be built within the County of St. Paul, CAO Shiela Kitz said that some will be built in the

einorthern area of the county, while several will be constructed in the southeast.

M.D. of Bonnyville CAO Ryan Poole explained that the M.D. highlighted certain areas to ensure that the nine towers would be evenly spread out to provide the greatest coverage possible.

"In the MD of Bonnyville it's actually pretty evenly spread out. We filled in a bunch of holes where there were more remote dead spots and low areas that still had a fairly large population," said Poole. "It's spread out, kind of dotted all over our map."



Final Mile grants

(From left) County of St. Paul Reeve Steve Upham, County of St. Paul CAO Sheila Kitz, Bonnyville-Cold Lake MLA Genia Leskiw, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Verlyn Olson, MD of Bonnyville Reeve Ed Rondeau and M.D. of Bonnyville CAO Ryan Poole were all on hand at the St. Paul provincial building last Friday for an announcement of \$1.2 million in funding to see 28 new high-speed Internet towers be constructed throughout the Lakeland area.

Ryan McCracken photo

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Skating with Santa

Elk Point Victim Services hosted their second annual Skate With Santa on Sunday afternoon, with a moderate crowd of families and youngsters coming out to skate with the jolly old elf. The afternoon also included a silent auction, snacks and contests, with a good time had by everyone.



Bullying.

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Stop Bill 46

In 1977, Premier Peter Lougheed promised that in all future contract negotiations, provincial employees would have the right to binding arbitration in lieu of the right to strike.

Now, Premier Alison Redford has rammed through Bill 46, which goes back on that promise and takes the right to arbitration away from 22,000 front-line government employees.

Redford's Bill 46 gives government the power to freeze wages, with no independent arbitrator determining what is fair and justified. That's not negotiating, that's bullying.

And bullying is not the Alberta way.

The Alberta way has always been to keep your promises and respect the rights of others.

Demand that Premier Redford scrap Bill 46 at TheAlbertaWay.com

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